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JUNE-JULY NO. 26

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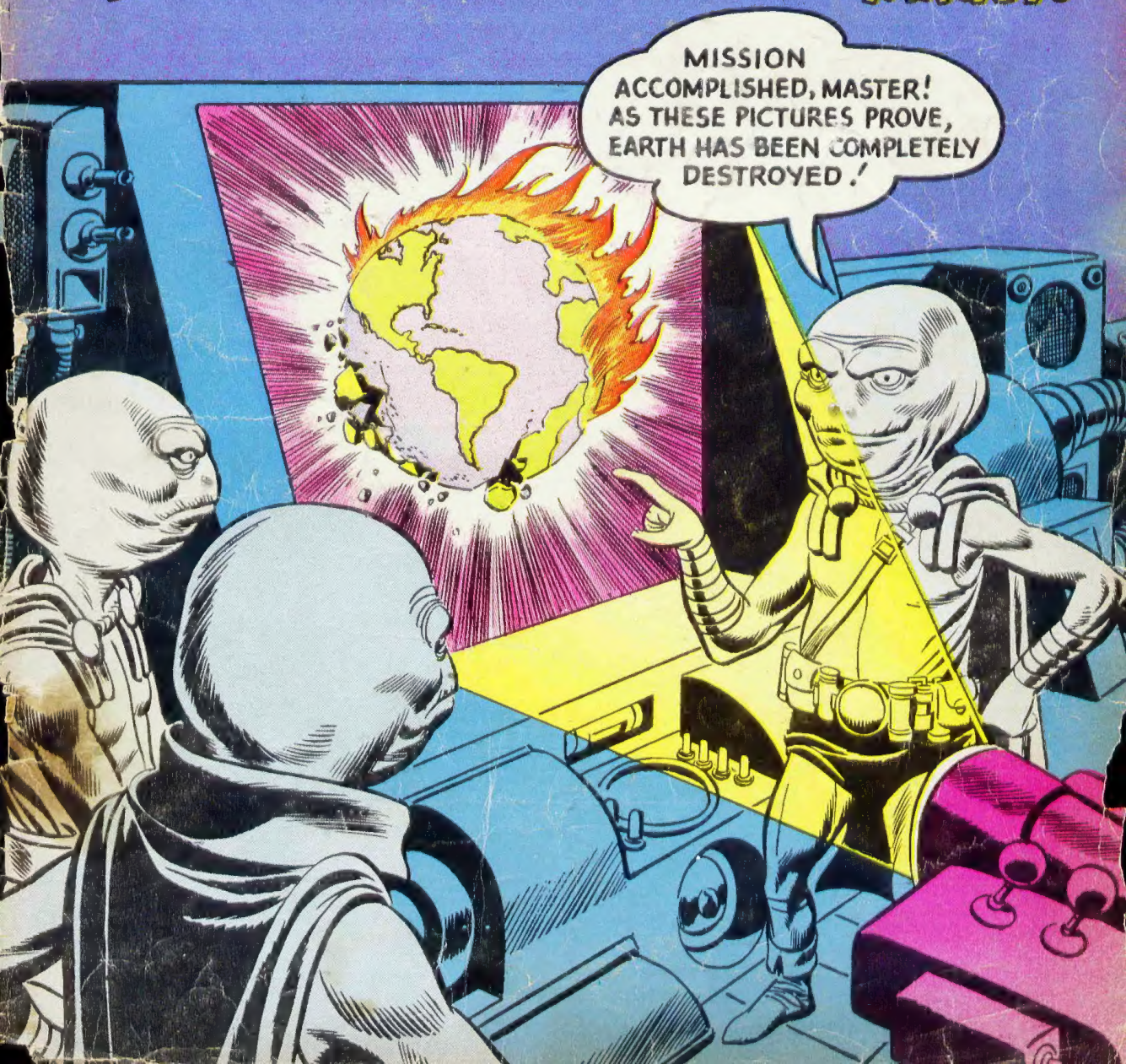
MYSTERY IN SPACE

10

Featuring "EARTH Is the TARGET!"



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mother
God took the Sunshine from the Skies
And made the Lovelight in your eyes
He gave you breath
And with his Love
Made yours divine
But best of all
HE MADE YOU MINE

CHILD'S PRAYER
Now I Lay me down To Sleep
I pray the Lord my soul to keep
If I should Die before I Wake
I pray the Lord my soul to take

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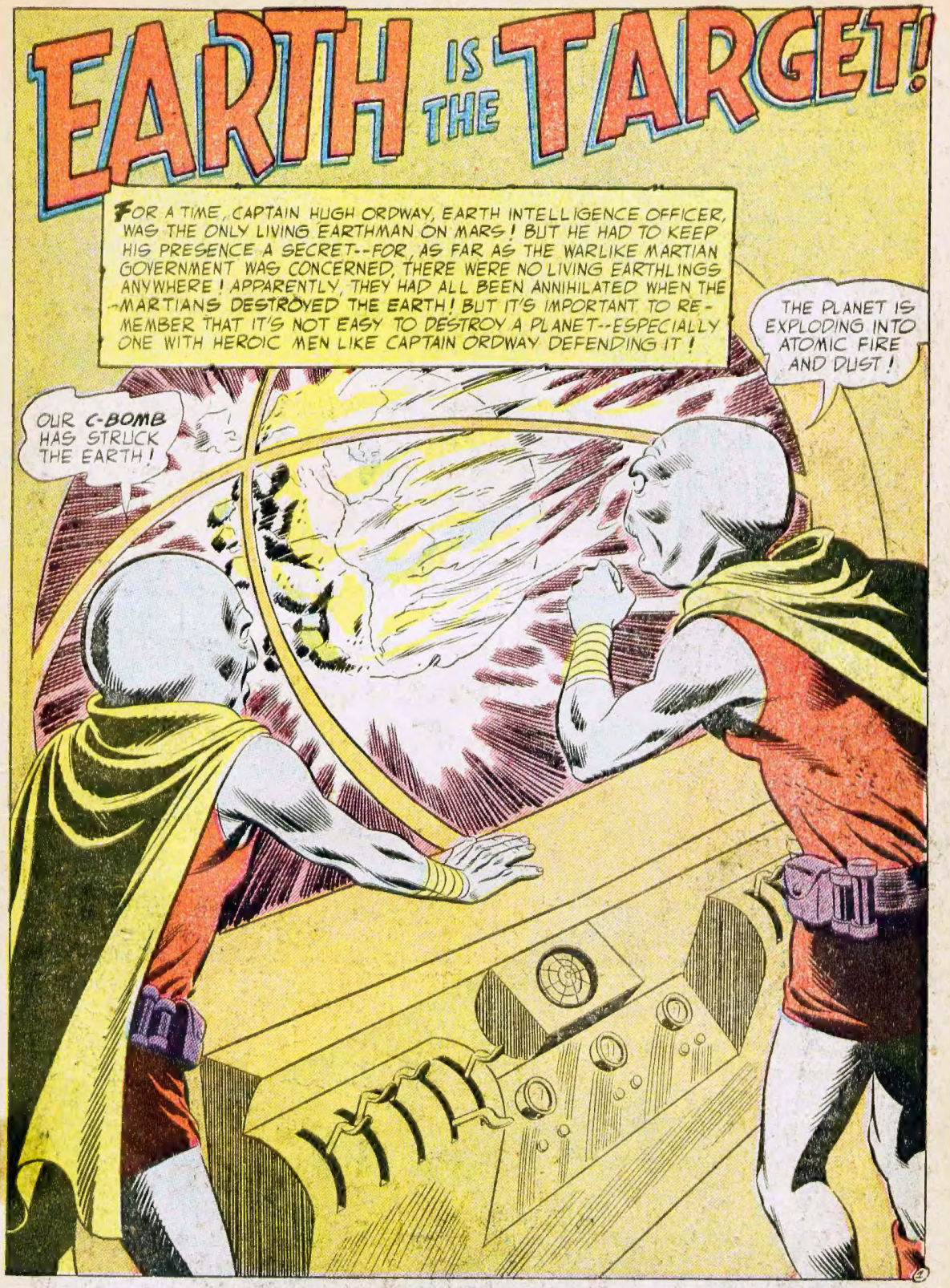
EARTH IS THE TARGET!


FOR A TIME, CAPTAIN HUGH ORDWAY, EARTH INTELLIGENCE OFFICER, WAS THE ONLY LIVING EARTHMAN ON MARS! BUT HE HAD TO KEEP HIS PRESENCE A SECRET--FOR, AS FAR AS THE WARLIKE MARTIAN GOVERNMENT WAS CONCERNED, THERE WERE NO LIVING EARTHLINGS ANYWHERE! APPARENTLY, THEY HAD ALL BEEN ANNIHILATED WHEN THE MARTIANS DESTROYED THE EARTH! BUT IT'S IMPORTANT TO REMEMBER THAT IT'S NOT EASY TO DESTROY A PLANET--ESPECIALLY ONE WITH HEROIC MEN LIKE CAPTAIN ORDWAY DEFENDING IT!
OUR C-BOMB HAS STRUCK THE EARTH!
THE PLANET IS EXPLODING INTO ATOMIC FIRE AND DUST!

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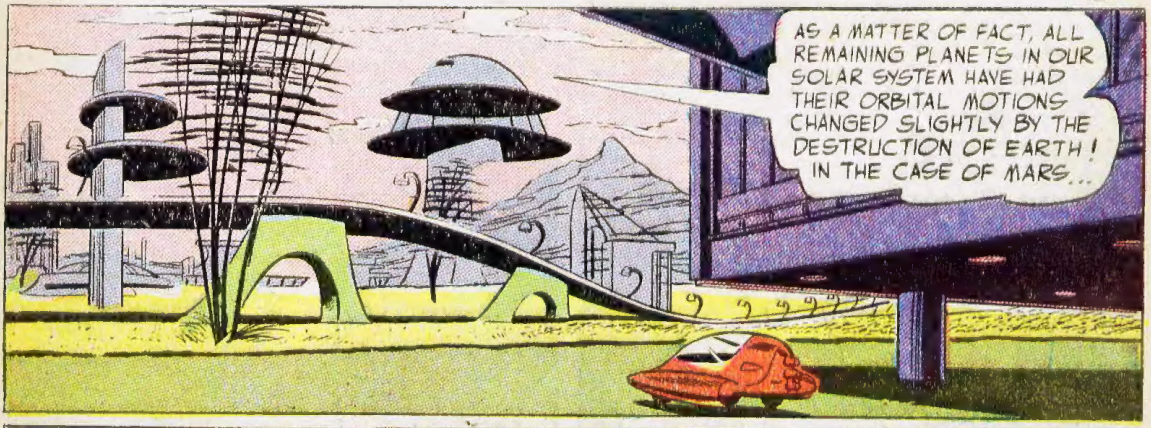
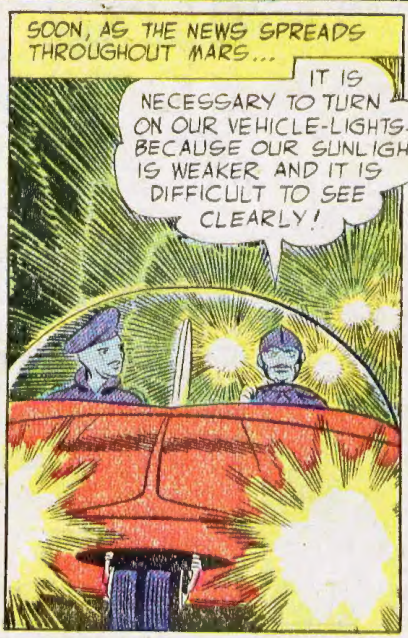
Printed in U.S.A.

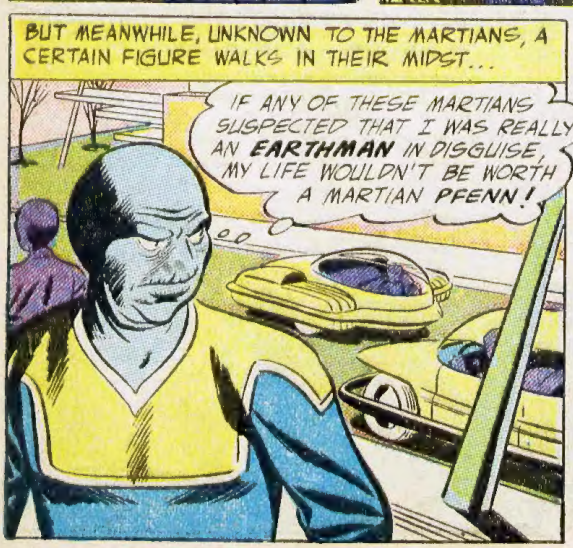
ON HIS HEADQUARTERS ON MARS, THE CHIEF WARLORD LISTENS TO A MILITARY REPORT...
SIRE, OUR MISSION IS ACCOMPLISHED! EARTH HAS BEEN DESTROYED! WITH YOUR EXCELLENCY'S PERMISSION, OUR TASK FORCE WILL SHOW A FILM OF THE LAST MOMENTS OF EARTH...
WE ARE GREATLY PLEASED, GENERAL VNI-AR! YOU MAY PROCEED WITH THE FILM!
EVERYTHING WENT ACCORDING TO PLAN, AS YOUR EXCELLENCY WILL NOW SEE...
AS THE THREE-DIMENSIONAL PICTURE UNFOLDS ON THE SCREEN...
WE BEGAN THIS FILM RECORD AT THE PRECISE MOMENT THAT WE SHOT OUT C-BOMB TOWARD EARTH...
AS OUR BOMB STRUCK THE PLANET, THE RESULTANT EXPLOSION WAS OF FANTASTIC MAGNITUDE! THE PLANET AND ALL OF ITS OCCUPANTS WERE COMPLETELY ANNIHILATED...
THAT WAS THE LAST WE SAW OF EARTH! IT DISSOLVED IN AN ENORMOUS CLOUD OF ATOMIC DUST!
LET US NOW HEAR THE FOLLOW-UP REPORT OF OUR CHIEF SCIENTIST, DR. WRIK...
FOLLOWING YOUR ORDERS, SIRE, WE SCIENTISTS CHECKED THE ORBIT OF EARTH... AND FOUND NO TRACE OF THE PLANET! IN ITS PLACE, WE DETECTED THE DUST CLOUD MENTIONED BY GENERAL VNI-AR...


AS A MATTER OF FACT, ALL REMAINING PLANETS IN OUR SOLAR SYSTEM HAVE HAD THEIR ORBITAL MOTIONS CHANGED SLIGHTLY BY THE DESTRUCTION OF EARTH! IN THE CASE OF MARS...

...WE HAVE MOVED **AWAY** FROM THE SUN, AND AS A RESULT OUR SUNLIGHT WILL BE SOMEWHAT **WEAKER** THAN BEFORE! EVEN OUR GRAVITY WILL BE A LITTLE LESS...
NEW ORBIT OF MARS
ORIGINAL ORBIT OF MARS
SUN


SOON, AS THE NEWS SPREADS THROUGHOUT MARS...
IT IS NECESSARY TO TURN ON OUR VEHICLE-LIGHTS.. BECAUSE OUR SUNLIGHT IS WEAKER AND IT IS DIFFICULT TO SEE CLEARLY!

AT A MARTIAN ATHLETIC MEET...
BECAUSE OUR GRAVITY IS WEAKER, LUKS-NI HAS BROKEN THE MARTIAN RECORD FOR THE HIGH-JUMP!


BUT MEANWHILE, UNKNOWN TO THE MARTIANS, A CERTAIN FIGURE WALKS IN THEIR MIDST...
IF ANY OF THESE MARTIANS SUSPECTED THAT I WAS REALLY AN **EARTHMAN** IN DISGUISE, MY LIFE WOULDN'T BE WORTH A MARTIAN **PFENN!**

AT THE ENTRANCE TO DR. WRIK'S LABORATORY IN **MARSOPOLIS**...
YOUR PASS IS IN ORDER! YOU MAY GO IN!
EARTH INTELLIGENCE DID A GOOD JOB COUNTERFEITING MY PASS TO THIS TOP MARTIAN SCIENTIFIC LABORATORY!

MOMENTS LATER, IN DR. WRIK'S PRIVATE OFFICE...
NO NEED FOR ME TO WEAR MY DISGUISE HERE, DR. WRIK...
NO, YOU ARE SAFE WITH US SCIENTISTS, CAPTAIN ORDWAY! WE ARE HAPPY THAT YOU ARRIVED HERE SAFELY!
THEN YOU'VE BEEN RECEIVING OUR CODE MESSAGES, DOCTOR?
YES... AND AS WE TOLD YOU, THE SCIENCE COUNCIL OF MARS HAS AGREED TO WORK TOGETHER TO OVERTHROW THE PRESENT WAR-LIKE GOVERNMENT OF OUR PLANET! BUT I CONFESS THERE IS MUCH WE DO NOT UNDERSTAND!
FOR EXAMPLE, HOW CAN EARTH STILL EXIST--WHEN WITH OUR OWN EYES WE SAW THE FILM RECORD GENERAL VNI-AR TOOK OF THE EXPLOSION OF YOUR PLANET?
I'LL EXPLAIN, DR. WRIK...
"IT ALL BEGAN SOME YEARS AGO...AT THE TURN OF THE 21ST CENTURY! ROBERT WYLIE, A YOUNG EARTH SCIENTIST, HAD AN AMBITIOUS DREAM..."
SOME DAY I'LL BUILD A SATELLITE OF EARTH--THAT WILL BE LIKE OUR PLANET IN EVERY RESPECT! IT WILL BE A PROVING GROUND FOR EXPERIMENTS THAT ARE TOO DANGEROUS TO CONDUCT HERE ON EARTH!
"AS TIME WENT ON, WYLIE'S IDEA GATHERED MOMENTUM..."
THIS PROJECT OF YOURS WILL BE COSTLY, WYLIE, BUT IT WOULD GIVE US A PLACE TO TEST OUT OUR NEW DEFENSIVE RADIOACTIVE WEAPONS! I'M GOING TO BACK IT!
"THUS THE PROJECT BEGAN! AND A FEW YEARS LATER, IN THE SKY ABOVE EARTH..."
THERE IT IS--WYLIE'S EARTH--MADE OUT OF PLASTIC AND DUST! IT'S AS BIG AS EARTH ITSELF!
AND IT HAS NO GRAVITATIONAL FORCE TO DISTURB OUR PLANET! IT CAN EVEN BE MOVED ANYWHERE BY REMOTE CONTROL!

"THAT VERY DAY, A STARTLING, GRIM REPORT ARRIVED BY INTERPLANETARY RADIO FROM OUR SECRET OPERATIVES ON MARS..."
LISTEN TO THIS! A SPACESHIP-OF-WAR, ARMED WITH THE SECRET NEW C-WEAPON OF MARS, HAS JUST LEFT MARSOPOLIS FOR EARTH!
THAT MEANS A SNEAK ATTACK!
"OUR LEADING GENERALS, SCIENTISTS, AND STATESMEN MET IN EMERGENCY SESSION.."
WE MUST FACE FACTS! MARS HAS ALWAYS BEEN MORE WARLIKE THAN US! THEIR WEAPONS--ESPECIALLY THE TERRIBLE C-WEAPON--EXCEED ANYTHING WE HAVE BEEN ABLE TO PRODUCE! IF ONLY WE HAD TIME...
THE MARTIAN ATTACK-VESSEL WILL REACH OUR PERIMETER OF DEFENSE IN JUST SIX DAYS! WHAT CAN WE DO IN SIX DAYS?
GENTLEMEN, I HAVE A WILD IDEA! BUT IT MIGHT WORK--! LISTEN--!
SUN
EARTH
MARS
JUPITER
"WYLIE'S IDEA WAS SIMPLE--AND DARING! HE PROPOSED TO USE THE NEW MAN-MADE DUPLICATE OF EARTH AS A 'DUMMY EARTH' TO DELUDE THE MARTIANS!"
BUT HOW CAN WE FOOL THE MARTIANS, DR. WYLIE? THEY WILL COME CLOSE ENOUGH TO SEE FOR THEMSELVES THAT THE "ARTIFICIAL EARTH" DOES NOT HAVE THE CONTINENT-CONFIGURATION OF OUR PLANET!
IT WAS MENTIONED THAT WE HAVE SIX DAYS..
I PROPOSE TO UTILIZE THOSE SIX DAYS TO GIVE THE DUMMY WORLD THE SAME GEOGRAPHICAL FEATURES OF EARTH!
"IN SIX DAYS THEY HAD TO CHANGE THE FACE OF THE SATELLITE! IT WAS A MASSIVE, INCREDIBLE EFFORT..."
WE HAVE OVER 3000 BULLDOZERS WORKING IN THIS SECTOR ALONE, DR. WYLIE!
TELL THEM WE NEED MORE WATER! WE'VE GOT TO COUNTERFEIT AN OCEAN HERE!

"AT THE SAME TIME, ANOTHER STEP IN THE OPERATION WAS TAKING PLACE IN THE SATELLITE CONTROL ROOM ON EARTH..."

THE "DUMMY EARTH" MUST BE MADE TO REVOLVE BEHIND THE REAL EARTH IN SUCH A MANNER THAT IT WILL BE **INVISIBLE** TO THE MARTIAN SPACESHIP EVERY MOMENT OF ITS JOURNEY!

THE REAL EARTH WILL CONTINUALLY ECLIPSE THE FALSE EARTH!

SPACESHIP

EARTH

DUMMY EARTH

AFTER FIVE DAYS OF TRAVEL -- THE MARTIAN SHIP WILL ENTER A DENSE SPACE-CLOUD! WHEN IT DOES, THE "DUMMY EARTH" WILL BE BROUGHT AROUND **IN FRONT** OF THE REAL EARTH!

SPACESHIP

DUMMY EARTH

EARTH

"FIVE DAYS LATER, AT A CERTAIN MOMENT, THE SIGNAL WAS GIVEN, AND THE SATELLITE MOVED SWIFTLY..."

"BY THAT TIME, THE WORK OF CHANGING THE APPEARANCE OF THE SURFACE OF THE SATELLITE HAD BEEN COMPLETED..."

"IN THE MARTIAN SHIP, WHEN IT EMERGED FROM THE CLOUD, GENERAL VNI-AR SIGHTED HIS OBJECTIVE AND NOTICED NOTHING UNUSUAL..."

HAVE THE **C-BOMB** PLACED IN ITS LAUNCHING CRADLE!

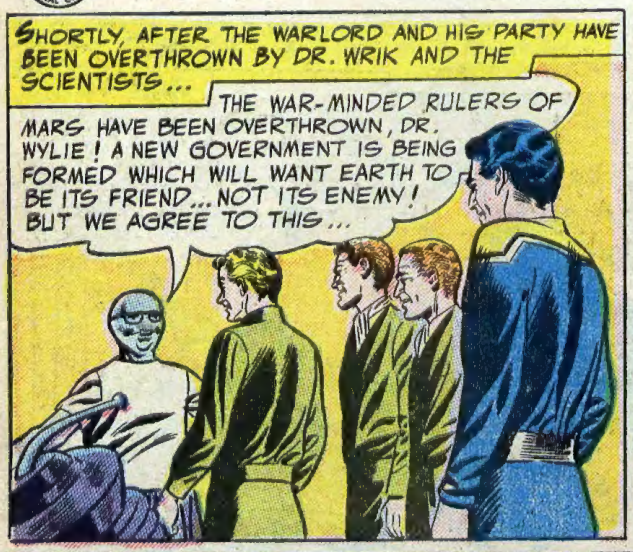
"SHORTLY THEREAFTER, THE FABULOUS C-WEAPON WAS FIRED. IT SPED AWAY FROM THE SHIP LIKE A HUGE MESSENGER OF DOOM..."

IN A FEW MINUTES, OUR MISSION TO DESTROY EARTH WILL BE COMPLETED!

"THE EXPLOSION MUST HAVE BEEN WHAT YOU SAW ON THE FILM, DR. WRIK..."

"BUT UNKNOWN TO VNI-AR AND HIS MINIONS, IT WAS ONLY THE '**DUMMY-EARTH**' THEY HAD DESTROYED! THE REAL EARTH WAS SAFE -- AND INVISIBLE--BEHIND THE EXPLOSION!"

"SO YOU SEE, DR. WRIK, NOT AN EARTHMAN WAS HARMED--IN THE SUPPOSED 'BLOWING-UP' OF EARTH!"
AN AMAZING HOAX!
BUT THAT'S NOT ALL! EVEN NOW, THE EARTH CRAFT THAT BROUGHT ME HERE AND THEN WENT ON TO A SECRET ASSIGNMENT SOMEWHERE ON MARS... SHOULD BE CONTACTING THE CHIEF WARLORD HIMSELF!
AT THAT MOMENT, IN THE WARLORD'S HEADQUARTERS...
EARTHLINGS.. ON MARS? ALERT THE GUARDS!
WAIT! BEFORE YOU MAKE A MOVE, LISTEN CAREFULLY! YOU HAVE FAILED TO DESTROY EARTH! YOU DESTROYED ONLY A MODEL DESIGNED TO DECEIVE YOU...
FURTHERMORE, THE EXPLOSION WAS STUDIED BY OUR SCIENTISTS--AND AS A RESULT WE ARE NOW ABLE TO DUPLICATE YOUR C-WEAPON! IN FACT, WE HAVE JUST BURIED A C-BOMB ON MARS--WHERE IT CAN NEVER BE FOUND AND WILL FOREVER REMAIN HIDDEN...
NOT FAR FROM MARSOPOLIS, DR. WYLIE'S VOICE RISES INTO THE MARTIAN AIR AS HE CONTINUES HIS VISICAST TO THE WARLORD...
IF YOU EVER EXPLODE A C-BOMB AGAIN-- ANYWHERE IN THE SOLAR SYSTEM-- THE EXPANDING C-WAVES SHORTLY AFTER WILL SET OFF THE BURIED WEAPON BY THE DEVICE WE ATTACHED TO IT-- AND WILL BLOW UP THIS PLANET!
YOU CAN NEVER AGAIN ATTEMPT TO DESTROY EARTH--WITHOUT DESTROYING MARS AT THE SAME TIME!
YOU'RE BLUFFING! I'LL HAVE YOU SEIZED--!
BUT AS THE CORNERED WARLORD TURNS TO HIS MILITARY STAFF...
THEY BELIEVE THAT VISICAST MESSAGE! THEY'RE AGAINST ME NOW! AM I THE ONLY ONE ON MARS WHO WANTS TO MAKE WAR? I--I CAN'T MAKE WAR ALONE...

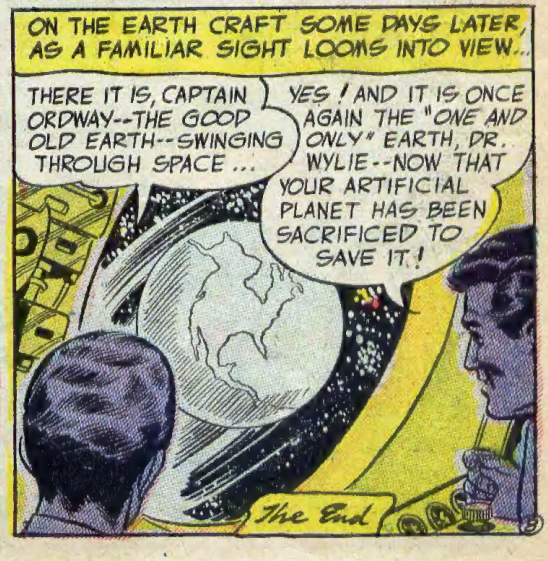

SHORTLY, AFTER THE WARLORD AND HIS PARTY HAVE BEEN OVERTHROWN BY DR. WRIK AND THE SCIENTISTS...
THE WAR-MINDED RULERS OF MARS HAVE BEEN OVERTHROWN, DR. WYLIE! A NEW GOVERNMENT IS BEING FORMED WHICH WILL WANT EARTH TO BE ITS FRIEND... NOT ITS ENEMY! BUT WE AGREE TO THIS...

...THAT THE C-WEAPON IS TO REMAIN BURIED IN ITS SECRET HIDING PLACE ON MARS--AND NO ATTEMPT BE MADE TO FIND IT!
GOOD! THAT WILL SAFE-GUARD EARTH AGAINST ANY FUTURE ATTACK, DR. WRIK!

LATER, AS CAPTAIN ORDWAY IS ABOUT TO LEAVE MARS FOR HOME...
BEFORE I LEAVE, DR. WRIK--TELL ME! WHY WERE ALL THE VEHICLES IN MARSOPOLIS RUNNING WITH THEIR LIGHTS ON THE DAY I ENTERED THE CITY?
OH, THAT! IT'S AMUSING, CAPTAIN...

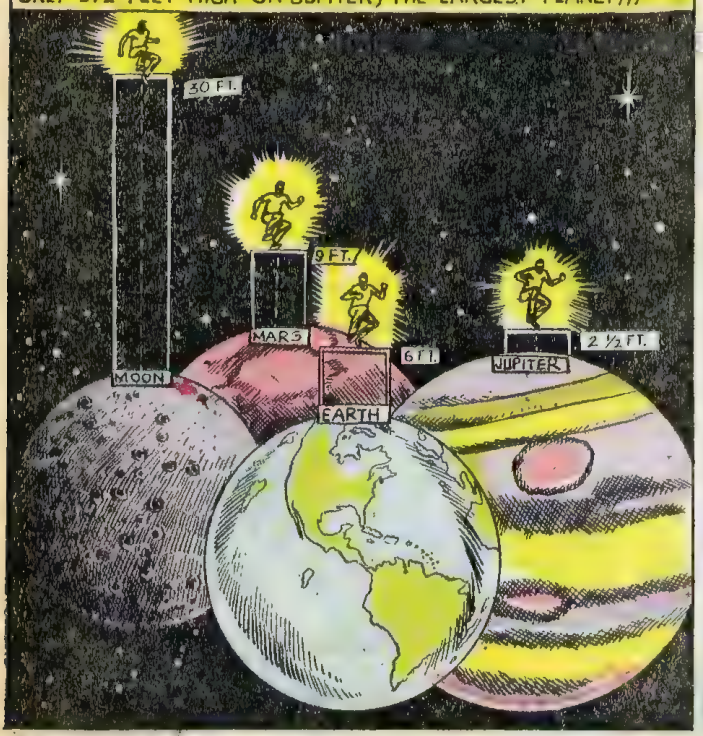
...AND SHOWS THE POWER OF SUGGESTION! WE SCIENTISTS FOOLED THE WARLORD BY CLAIMING THAT EARTH'S "DISAPPEARANCE" HAD WEAKENED OUR SUNLIGHT AND OUR GRAVITY! AS A RESULT, ALL VEHICLES PUT THEIR LIGHTS ON, AND THE MARTIAN HIGH JUMP RECORD WAS BROKEN!

BUT SINCE THEN--NOW THAT THE TRUTH IS KNOWN--NO ONE HAS SUCCEEDED IN COMING NEAR THE NEW MARKS!
THE POWER OF SUGGESTION IS MIGHTY INDEED! FAREWELL, DR. WRIK!

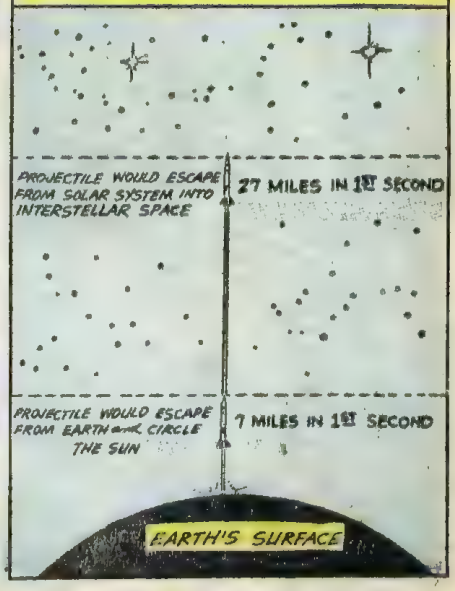

ON THE EARTH CRAFT SOME DAYS LATER, AS A FAMILIAR SIGHT LOOMS INTO VIEW...
THERE IT IS, CAPTAIN ORDWAY--THE GOOD OLD EARTH--SWINGING THROUGH SPACE...
YES! AND IT IS ONCE AGAIN THE "ONE AND ONLY" EARTH, DR. WYLIE--NOW THAT YOUR ARTIFICIAL PLANET HAS BEEN SACRIFICED TO SAVE IT!
The End

GRAVITY-BOUND!

IF IT WERE NOT FOR THE GRAVITATIONAL FORCE OF EARTH, A MAN COULD JUMP INTO THE AIR AND CONTINUE TO SPRING CLEAR OUT INTO SPACE. EACH MEMBER OF THE SOLAR SYSTEM HAS ITS OWN INDIVIDUAL FORCE OF GRAVITY. A MAN ABLE TO JUMP 6 FEET HIGH ON EARTH, COULD JUMP 30 FEET HIGH ON THE MOON, BUT ONLY 2½ FEET HIGH ON JUPITER, THE LARGEST PLANET...



A PROJECTILE FIRED OFF THE EARTH AT LESS THAN 7-MILES PER SECOND SPEED, WILL BE DRAWN BACK TO THE SURFACE BY THE EARTH'S GRAVITY. IF FIRED AT 7 OR MORE MILES A SECOND, IT WOULD ESCAPE THE EARTH'S GRAVITATIONAL PULL, AND BECOME A CAPTIVE SATELLITE OF THE SUN. SHOULD THE PROJECTILE'S SPEED BE 27 MILES A SECOND OR FASTER, IT WOULD OVERCOME BOTH THE EARTH'S AND SUN'S GRAVITATIONAL PULL, AND LEAVE THE SOLAR SYSTEM FOREVER...


PROJECTILE WOULD ESCAPE FROM SOLAR SYSTEM INTO INTERSTELLAR SPACE
27 MILES IN 1ST SECOND
PROJECTILE WOULD ESCAPE FROM EARTH and CIRCLE THE SUN
7 MILES IN 1ST SECOND
EARTH'S SURFACE

ADVERTISEMENT

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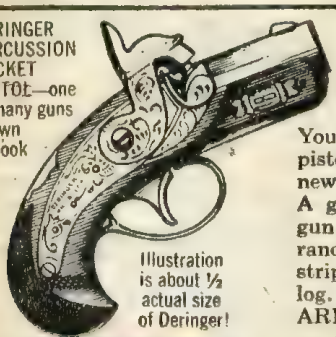

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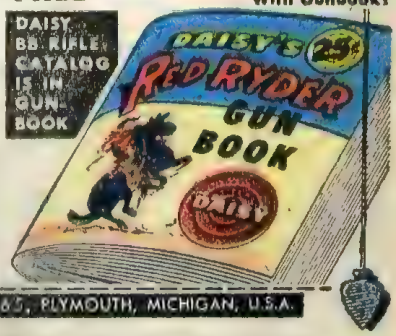

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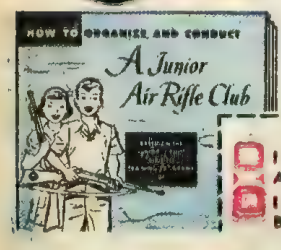

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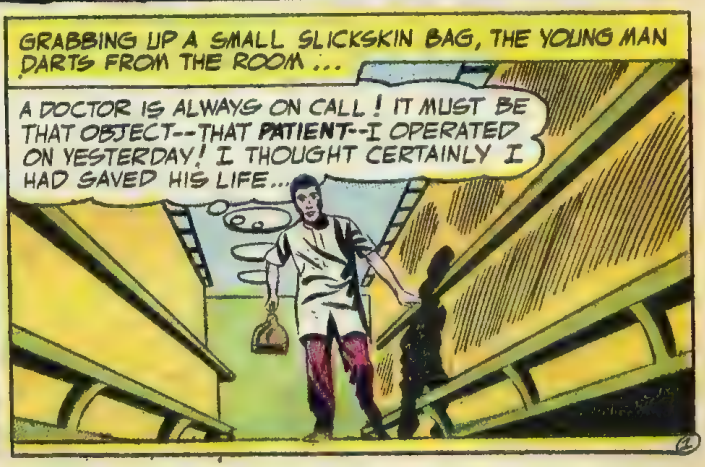
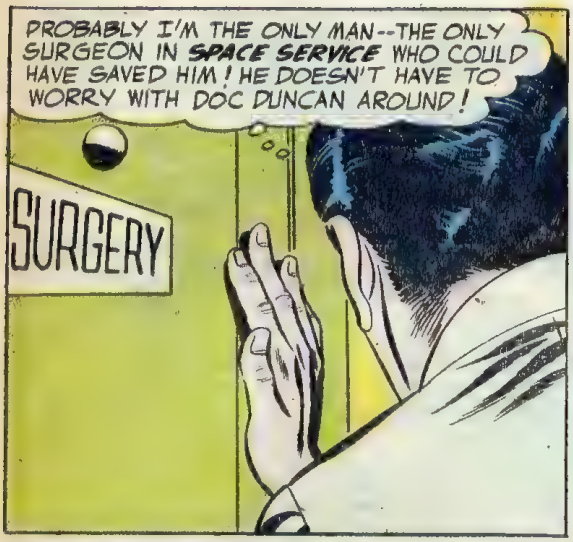
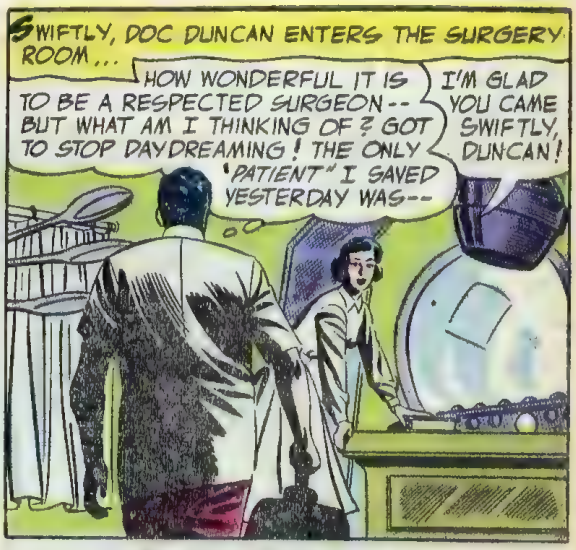
CALLING SPACE-DOCTOR DUNCAN!

RRRRRRRRRRRRRR!
I F-FEEL LIKE I'M C-CAUGHT IN AN EARTHQUAKE! SO THIS IS WH-WHAT H-HAPPENS WHEN THE ROARERS C-COME VIBRATING INTO TOWN!
YOUNG GEORGE DUNCAN ALWAYS WANTED TO BE A DOCTOR! IT WAS HIS DREAM AND HIS AMBITION! BUT HE NEVER HAD A CHANCE TO ATTAIN HIS GOAL UNTIL ONE DAY ON A FAR-OFF PLANET, A STRANGE THING HAPPENED TO HIM--SO STARTLING THAT IT ALTERED THE COURSE OF HIS LIFE--AT THE SAME TIME THAT IT ENDANGERED IT!

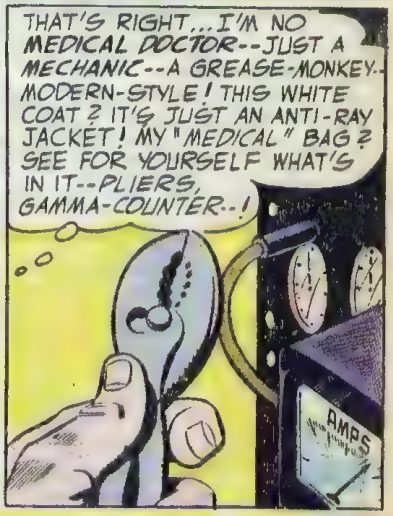
IN THE GREAT SPACE HOSPITAL IN EARTHOPOLIS, ONE DAY IN THE 22ND CENTURY...
DOC DUNCAN! DOC DUNCAN! REPORT TO SURGERY AT ONCE!
SOMETHING MUST HAVE HAPPENED! I'D BETTER HURRY!


GRABBING UP A SMALL SLICKSKIN BAG, THE YOUNG MAN DARTS FROM THE ROOM...
A DOCTOR IS ALWAYS ON CALL! IT MUST BE THAT OBJECT--THAT PATIENT--I OPERATED ON YESTERDAY! I THOUGHT CERTAINLY I HAD SAVED HIS LIFE...

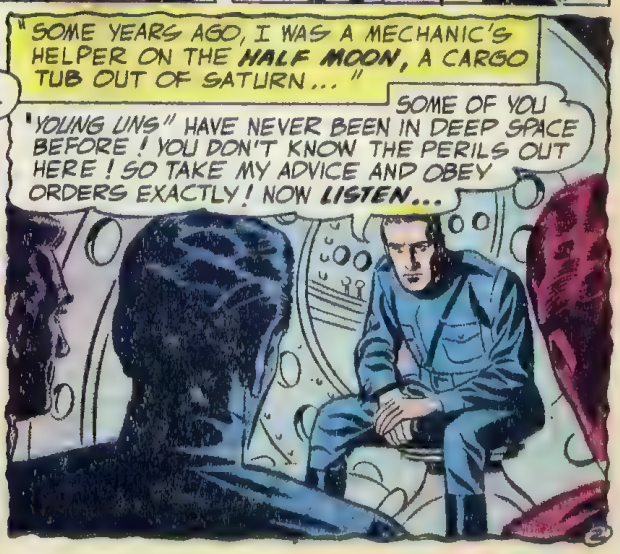

PROBABLY I'M THE ONLY MAN--THE ONLY SURGEON IN SPACE SERVICE WHO COULD HAVE SAVED HIM! HE DOESN'T HAVE TO WORRY WITH DOC DUNCAN AROUND!
SURGERY


SWIFTLY, DOC DUNCAN ENTERS THE SURGERY ROOM...
HOW WONDERFUL IT IS TO BE A RESPECTED SURGEON--BUT WHAT AM I THINKING OF? GOT TO STOP DAYDREAMING! THE ONLY "PATIENT" I SAVED YESTERDAY WAS--
I'M GLAD YOU CAME SWIFTLY, DUNCAN!

THIS COBALT-RADIATIONER MUST BE FIXED! WE HAVE AN EMERGENCY PATIENT COMING IN HERE IN TEN MINUTES! DR. HAMPDEN SAYS IT WILL BE FATAL TO DELAY ANY LONGER!
I--I'LL DO MY BEST, NURSE...


THAT'S RIGHT...I'M NO MEDICAL DOCTOR--JUST A MECHANIC--A GREASE-MONKEY--MODERN-STYLE! THIS WHITE COAT? IT'S JUST AN ANTI-RAY JACKET! MY "MEDICAL" BAG? SEE FOR YOURSELF WHAT'S IN IT--PLIERS, GAMMA-COUNTER--!
AMPS

BUT THE ODD THING IS I REALLY WAS A DOCTOR--ONCE! YES--BUT NOT IN THE WAY ANYONE HERE WOULD UNDERSTAND OR REMEMBER! BUT I'LL NEVER FORGET--
RADIATIONER


"SOME YEARS AGO, I WAS A MECHANIC'S HELPER ON THE HALF MOON, A CARGO TUB OUT OF SATURN..."
SOME OF YOU "YOUNG UNS" HAVE NEVER BEEN IN DEEP SPACE BEFORE! YOU DON'T KNOW THE PERILS OUT HERE! SO TAKE MY ADVICE AND OBEY ORDERS EXACTLY! NOW LISTEN...

WE'RE DELIVERING A LOAD OF SATURNIAN TAGA-SEEDS TO THIS PLANET WENGAREN! WE'LL BE THERE ABOUT EIGHT HOURS TO UNLOAD! NOBODY IS GET OUT OF SIGHT OF THE SHIP -- NOBODY!
"SOON AFTER, WE TIED OURSELVES IN FOR A LANDING..."
WHAT DO YOU SUPPOSE COULD BE SO DANGEROUS HERE ON WENGAREN, SAWYER?
DON'T ASK ME, DUNCAN! I GUESS WE'RE TWO OF THE "YOUNG 'UNS" THE CAPTAIN WAS TALKING TO!
"AS MECHANICS, SAWYER AND I DIDN'T HAVE TO STAY ABOARD THE SHIP WHILE THE BIG TAGA-SEEDS WERE BEING UNLOADED."
AS LONG AS WE KEEP WITHIN SIGHT OF THE SHIP, WE'RE STAYING WITHIN ORDERS, DUNCAN!
RIGHT, SAWYER! BUT LET'S BE CAREFUL -- I WOULDN'T WANT TO BE STRANDED HERE!
"THE INHABITANTS OF WENGAREN CITY WERE DESCENDANTS OF THE ORIGINAL EARTH PEOPLE WHO HAD COLONIZED THE PLANET. WE GOT TO TALKING TO ONE..."
YES! YOU TWO YOUNG CHAPS BETTER LOOK SHARP AND MOVE FAST IF ANY ROARERS COME TO TOWN! THEY LIVE IN THE MOUNTAINS UP THERE!
ROARERS! WHO OR WHAT ARE THEY?
THEY'RE A PRIMITIVE NATIVE TRIBE -- NO ONE KNOWS MUCH ABOUT THEM! THERE'S SOMETHING ABOUT THEM WHEN YOU'RE NEAR THEM -- YOU HEAR A ROARING SOUND -- FILLING THE AIR WITH DEADLY VIBRATIONS...
ALL BUILDINGS IN WENGAREN ARE SET IN RUBBER SOCKETS -- KIND OF SHOCK ABSORBERS -- AGAINST THE ROARERS! NO ONE'S EVER BEEN ABLE TO SOLVE THE MYSTERY!
DUNCAN, DO YOU HEAR SOMETHING -- A RUMBLE...

"THE NEXT MOMENT..."
ROARERS! IT'S A SURPRISE RAID! RUN FOR THE HOUSES!
"THE ROARERS' VIBRATIONS WERE ALREADY SHAKING THE GROUND! I WAS SCARED, BUT AS WE FLED, I PAUSED TO TAKE ANOTHER LOOK..."
CREATURES WITH METALIC BODIES! BUT THEY DON'T LOOK FIERCE--AND THEY'RE NOT CARRYING ANY WEAPONS THAT I CAN SEE...!
RRRRR!
"THAT LOOK--AND MY INEXPERIENCE--WERE COSTLY! THE VIBRATIONS STRUCK MY EYES, MY HEAD..."
DUNCAN IS FALLING! I'VE GOT TO HELP HIM!
STAY PUT! STICK YOUR FACE OUTSIDE--AND YOU'LL COLLAPSE TOO!
RRRRR!
"AND LATER--BACK AT THE SHIP..."
--AND THEN THEY PICKED UP DUNCAN AND CARRIED HIM AWAY, CAPTAIN!
TOO BAD! WE CAN'T SPARE TIME TO RESCUE HIM--EVEN IF WE COULD! GET ON BOARD, SAWYER--WE'RE BLASTING OFF!
"THE CAPTAIN GAVE ME UP FOR LOST! BUT MEANWHILE, IN THE ROARERS' ENCAMPMENT..."
YOU--HELP--US--?
THAT ROARING!! I--I CAN'T STAND IT! DEAFENING--SHAKING ME LIKE AN EARTHQUAKE!
"BUT AS THE DAYS WENT BY, I GRADUALLY GREW MORE ACCUSTOMED TO THE VIBRATIONS UNTIL..."
HELP.. PLEASE!
I FINALLY FIGURED OUT THE ROARS AND VIBRATIONS! THEY'RE REALLY THESE CREATURES' SPEECH--AND I'M GETTING SO USE TO IT THAT I DON'T LOSE CONSCIOUSNESS ANY MORE WHEN THEY COME NEAR ME!

"THEY SPOKE A KIND OF BASIC ENGLISH..."
YOU HELP--SAVE IKA-WAN--SICK--!
SOMEONE SICK? BUT--I'M NO DOC--
"THEN SOME HOW I UNDERSTOOD, AND IT HIT ME LIKE A VOLLEY OF JETS..."
THEY--THEY THINK I'M A DOCTOR! MY WHITE JACKET--LIKE REGULAR DOCTORS WEAR--IT MUST HAVE FOOLED THEM! WHAT'LL I DO?
"THEY BROUGHT ME INSIDE THE DOMED-SHAPED METALLIC HOUSE..."
SAVE HIM--PLEASE... DOC-TOR...
I'M NO--YOU'VE GOT THE WRONG--
GOSH! THE POOR CREATURE! LOOK AT HIM LYING THERE...SO HELPLESS...
"AND THEN I REALIZED SOMETHING... THIS CREATURE WAS A METAL... A KIND OF MACHINE--AND I KNEW MACHINES, BETTER THAN ANY DOCTOR..."
LISTEN--I'M GOING TO PERFORM AN OPERATION! YOU'LL HELP ME--LIKE NURSES--
HELP! NURSE! YES--!
"MOMENTS LATER, I WAS--WELL, I GUESS YOU'D HAVE TO SAY I WAS PERFORMING AN EMERGENCY OPERATION!"
PASS ME THE GALVANOMETER--I'VE GOT TO CHECK HIS CURRENT! AND THE WRENCH...
HERE, DOCTOR!
"AT THE END OF THAT DAY, WITH DARKNESS WELL UPON US..."
THAT'S ALL I CAN DO--WHETHER HE LIVES OR DIES NOW DEPENDS ON--WELL, IT'S A TOSS-UP, THAT'S ALL!
GOSH! THEY'RE NOT ANSWERING ME...

"I DON'T KNOW HOW THE IDEA GREW WITHIN ME, BUT IT DID..."
IF IKA-WAN DOESN'T LIVE--THEN NEITHER WILL I! THEY'RE NOT SAYING THAT, BUT THEIR LOOKS ARE--BETTER THAN WORDS!
"WE ALL STAYED UP THROUGH THE NIGHT WAITING! IT WAS A LONG NIGHT, BUT AT DAWN..."
IKA-WAN! ALIVE AND WELL!
THE PATIENT LIVES--AND SO WILL I!
"AS THEY CROWDED AROUND ME, YOU'D HAVE THOUGHT I HAD WON A WAR FOR THEM OR SOMETHING..."
DOCTOR--FINE! GOOD DOCTOR!
EASY, PALS! YOU BETTER CONGRATULATE ME IN A WHISPER OR YOUR VIBRATIONS WILL KNOCK ME OUT!
"THEY GAVE ME A KIND OF HONOR GUARD BACK TO WENGAREN CITY..."
ROARERS! RUN FOR YOUR LIVES!
PEOPLE MAY ALWAYS FEAR THE ROARERS, BUT THEY'LL ALWAYS BE PART OF MY FONDEST MEMORIES!
"I GOT A SHIP BACK TO EARTH, AND SOON AFTER A JOB HERE IN SPACE HOSPITAL! I GUESS THEY CALL ME "DOC" TO KID ME..."
THE COBALT-RADIATIONER IS WORKING NOW!
DOC, YOU REALLY CAN CURE OUR SICK MACHINES! YOU'RE A WHIZ WITH A WRENCH!
"LET 'EM KID ME! I WAS A DOCTOR ONCE--I SAVED SOMEBODY! AND WHAT'S MORE SOME DAY I'LL BE A REAL DOCTOR, BECAUSE YOU SEE..."
I'M STUDYING NOW--AND I GO TO SCHOOL AT NIGHT! IT'LL TAKE ME TIME--MAYBE TEN YEARS, BUT I'LL MAKE IT! ONE OF THESE DAYS I WON'T BE "DOC"--BUT DOCTOR DUNCAN! AND I'LL BE A GOOD DOCTOR LIKE SOMEONE ONCE CALLED ME...
MEDICINE FIRST YEAR
The End
6

Destination EARTH
VENUS
THERE'S NOT MUCH OPPORTUNITY UP HERE FOR ME! I THINK I'LL GO TO EARTH AND FIND A JOB!
EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES
WANTED
ACTOR
CARTOONIST
MACHINIST
MAID
VALET
PLENTY OF JOBS! NOW LET ME SEE--
WHAT CAN I DO BEST?
JOIN THE NAVY
HOW WOULD YOU LIKE TO WORK FOR US?
TAP
HUH?
B-BUT I CAN'T JOIN THIS NAVY! I'M FROM OUT OF THIS WORLD!
THAT'S WHAT THEY ALL SAY! C'MON, BIG BOY, YOU'RE MADE FOR THIS JOB!
NAVY RECRUITING STATION
BEST SIGNAL MAN WE EVER HAD, LT. JONES!
THE END

ADVERTISEMENT

FEARLESS FOSDICK® by Al Capp

BANG! ARE YOU HURT, FOSDICK? MERELY A SUPERFICIAL WOUND!!
CATCH HIM—QUICKLY!! FIRST—I MUST FIX MY HAIR, WITH WILDROOT CREAM OIL!!—REMOVES LOOSE DANDRUFF—
—RELIEVES DRYNESS—KEEPS HAIR NEAT, BUT NOT—UGH!!—GREASY!! IS NEAT HAIR IMPORTANT AT A TIME LIKE THIS?
WILDROOT CREAM-OIL HAIR TONIC
WILDROOT CREAM-OIL HAIR TONIC
AT ALL TIMES!! NOW I WILL BE A CREDIT TO THE DEPARTMENT, ON THE FRONT PAGE!!—GET WILDROOT CREAM OIL, CHARLIE!! BUT MY NAME IS PRUDENCE PIMPLETON.
GOT LOOSE DANDRUFF? DON'T GET MAD—GET WILDROOT CREAM-OIL, CHA A-RUE!

ONE-MAN PLANET!

ON EARTH, COSMO DIXON WAS A NOBODY, AN INEFFICIENT WEAKLING WHO COULDN'T GIVE A CORRECT ORDER! YET, ON A STRANGE ASTEROID WORLD, HE BECAME A MASTER WHOSE EVERY WORD WAS LAW! BUT, DESPITE THIS POWER, COSMO DIXON WAS DISCONTENT BECAUSE HE KNEW HE WAS STILL A FRAUD, A MAN WHO COULD NOT RULE MEN!

THEY'RE WAITING FOR MY COMMANDS! BUT I'M AFRAID TO GIVE AN ORDER--FOR WHATEVER I COMMAND, WILL MAKE THE SITUATION *WORSE* ON THIS WORLD!
SY BARRY

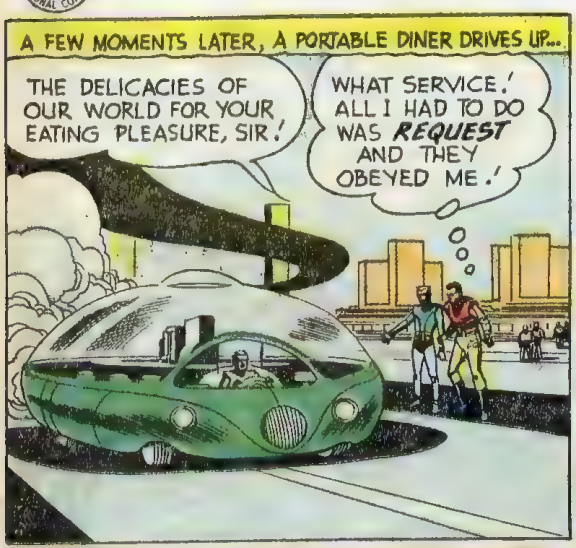
IN THE ***INTER-GALACTIC SPACE FREIGHT*** WAREHOUSE, COSMO DIXON HAS ALWAYS BEEN REGARDED WITH SCORN...

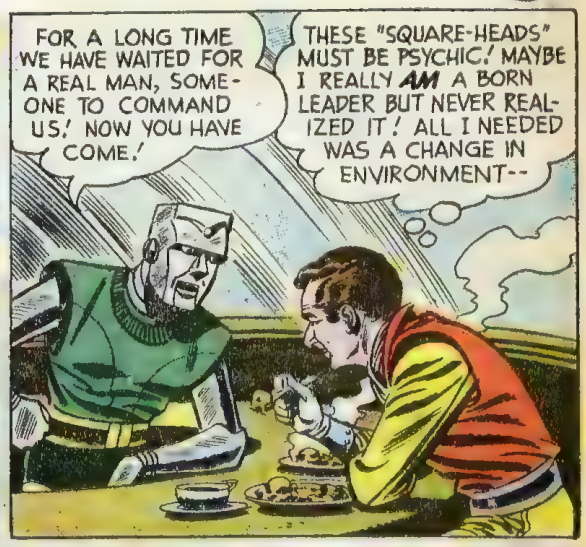
WHAT'S WRONG WITH DIXON? I HEAR HE'S BEEN WORKING HERE SINCE 2055--THAT'S TWENTY YEARS! YET HE'S STILL WORKING AT THE SAME OLD JOB...
YOU'RE NEW HERE, OR YOU'D KNOW THE REASON!
JUPITER

SUDDENLY, AN OMINOUS BELLOW SETS DIXON QUAKING WITH APPREHENSION...

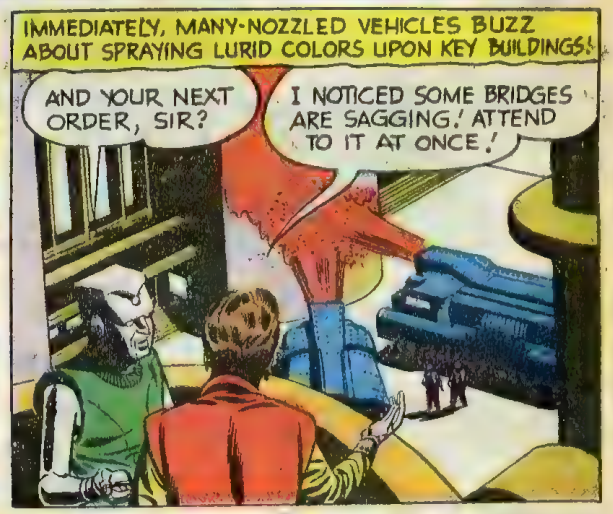
DIXON, THE NEW LOADING PLATFORM FOREMAN WON'T ARRIVE TILL TOMORROW, SO I'M FORCED TO USE YOU IN HIS PLACE.'
M-ME? BUT, MR. WEDGE-- YOU REMEMBER WHAT HAPPENED THE LAST TIME!
I REMEMBER.' YOU FUMBLED THE JOB, JUST AS YOU'VE ALWAYS FUMBLED ANY JOB THAT CALLED FOR AUTHORITY!
B-BUT I DON'T WANT TO BE RESPONSIBLE-- NOT AGAIN.' IT ONLY MEANS MORE TROUBLE FOR EVERYBODY!
I'M OUT OF MY MIND TO DO THIS, BUT I'M GIVING YOU ONE MORE CHANCE, EVEN THOUGH I KNOW YOU'LL BUNGLE IT.' OHHH, HOW WELL I KNOW IT!
I--I'LL DO MY BEST, SIR!
LATER, IT IS WITH HIS USUAL HESITANCY THAT DIXON GIVES HIS TIMID ORDERS ON THE LOADING PLATFORM...
I--I HOPE YOU'VE MADE THAT CAGE DOOR SECURE, MR. JENKINS.'
RELAX, DIXON! THOSE CHIMPS WILL GET TO THE JUPITER ZOO INTACT.' MAYBE YOU'D LIKE TO GO ALONG WITH 'EM? HAW! HAW!
THOUGH FEARFUL THERE WILL BE AN ACCIDENT, DIXON IS STILL NOT DECISIVE WITH THE MEN...
MR. VEASEY, I--I THINK YOU'RE LETTING THAT CAGE DOWN A LITTLE TOO FAST!
I'LL KEEP DOING IT MY WAY TILL YOU ORDER OTHERWISE!
THEN IT HAPPENS! JUST AS DIXON DREADED, THE MONKEY CAGE CRASHES DOWN!
GUESS I SHOULD HAVE LISTENED TO DIXON!
OHHH! I WAS AFRAID THIS WOULD HAPPEN!

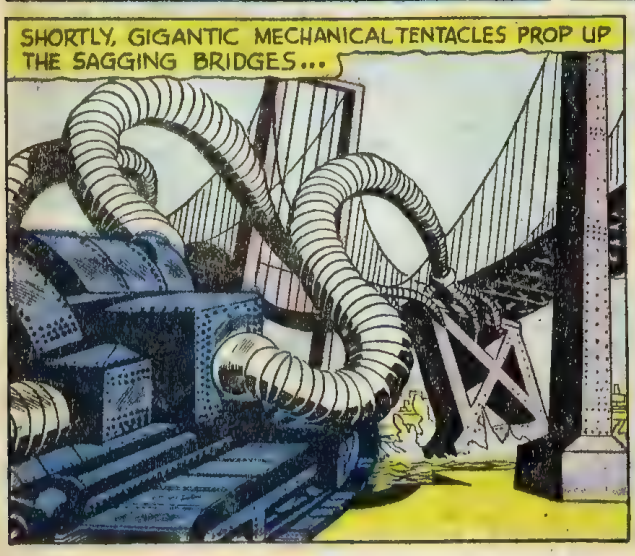
THIS LATEST CATASTROPHE, IS TO BOSS WEDGE, THE LAST AND FINAL STRAW.'
I HAVE NO ONE TO BLAME BUT MYSELF, DIXON.' BUT I CAN'T FIRE MYSELF--SO I'M FIRING YOU.' GET OUT AND DON'T COME BACK UNTIL YOU'VE LEARNED TO DO A JOB RIGHT.'
THE ACCIDENT WOULDN'T HAVE HAPPENED IF THEY HAD FOLLOWED MY ORDERS.' TROUBLE IS--THE WAY I GIVE ORDERS, NOBODY LISTENS TO THEM.'
LATER, HOME SWEET HOME NEVER LOOKED MORE SOUR TO COSMO DIXON...
WHAT I NEED IS A VACATION--AWAY FROM EVERYBODY.' THE ASTEROID BELT HAS HUNDREDS OF ISOLATED PLACES.' MAYBE I CAN FIND SOME PEACE AND QUIET ON ONE OF THEM.'
AND SO, VALISES PACKED IN HIS MODEST SPACE-ROADSTER, DIXON LEAVES FOR A SHORT HOP INTO THE ASTEROID BELT BETWEEN MARS AND JUPITER...
AN UNDISCOVERED ASTEROID WORLD NOT LISTED ON ANY SPACE-MAPS! LOOKS AS GOOD A PLACE AS ANY TO TRY.'
SOON AFTER, DIXON LANDS ON THE STRANGE PLANET...
I, KLOG, WELCOME YOU TO NRLLA.' WE SHALL BE GLAD TO SERVE YOU IN ANY WAY.'
SOME RECEPTION COMMITTEE--ALMOST AS IF I WERE A BIG SHOT! THOSE "SQUARE-HEADS" DON'T KNOW I'M A NOBODY, SO MAYBE I CAN BLUFF THEM A LITTLE! SURE...WHY NOT?
NICE LITTLE PLACE YOU'VE GOT HERE.' NOW IF YOU DON'T MIND, I'D LIKE SOMETHING TO EAT.'
YOUR EVERY WISH IS OUR COMMAND!
3


A FEW MOMENTS LATER, A PORTABLE DINER DRIVES UP...
THE DELICACIES OF OUR WORLD FOR YOUR EATING PLEASURE, SIR!
WHAT SERVICE! ALL I HAD TO DO WAS REQUEST AND THEY OBEYED ME!


FOR A LONG TIME WE HAVE WAITED FOR A REAL MAN, SOMEONE TO COMMAND US! NOW YOU HAVE COME!
THESE "SQUARE-HEADS" MUST BE PSYCHIC! MAYBE I REALLY AM A BORN LEADER BUT NEVER REALIZED IT! ALL I NEEDED WAS A CHANGE IN ENVIRONMENT--

SOON AFTER, DIXON TAKES COMMAND OF THE ASTEROID WORLD...
WHAT ARE YOUR ORDERS, SIR?
THIS PLACE NEEDS SOME BRIGHTENING UP! I WANT A PAINT JOB DONE AT ONCE!


IMMEDIATELY, MANY-NOZZLED VEHICLES BUZZ ABOUT SPRAYING LURID COLORS UPON KEY BUILDINGS!
AND YOUR NEXT ORDER, SIR?
I NOTICED SOME BRIDGES ARE SAGGING! ATTEND TO IT AT ONCE!


SHORTLY, GIGANTIC MECHANICAL TENTACLES PROP UP THE SAGGING BRIDGES...

WE SHALL WORK DAY AND NIGHT TILL THE CITY IS REPAIRED!
I'M NOT A TYRANT, KLOG! I ORDER YOUR PEOPLE TO STOP WORKING FOR FOR AWHILE! EVERY HUMAN NEEDS TIME OUT FOR FOOD AND SLEEP!

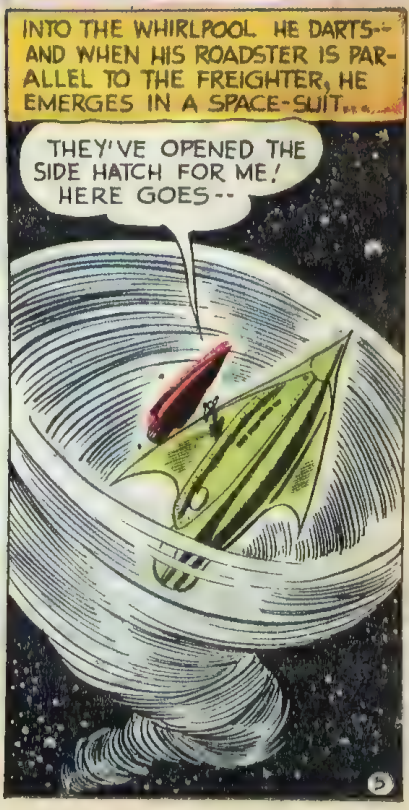
AND THEN, DIXON'S WORLD CRASHES DOWN ON HIM...
HUMAN? BUT WE THOUGHT YOU KNEW! WE DO NOT NEED FOOD OR SLEEP! WE ARE NOT HUMAN--WE ARE ALL ROBOTS!
I--I DON'T UNDERSTAND!

LONG AGO OUR HUMAN MASTERS WERE WIPED OUT BY A PLAGUE! WE ARE THE SOLE SURVIVORS!
THEN THAT'S WHAT YOU MEANT WHEN YOU SAID YOU WERE WAITING FOR A REAL MAN TO GIVE YOU COMMANDS! I'VE BEEN A FOOL!

AND I THOUGHT I WAS A BORN LEADER! MACHINES OBEYED MY ORDERS--NOT MEN! I'M STILL A WEAKLING, A MISFIT!

SUDDENLY, KLOG POINTS TO A TELESCOPIC VIEWER...
LOOK, MASTER! A SPACE-SHIP--CAUGHT IN THE COSMIC WHIRLPOOL CLOSE BY!
I KNOW THAT SHIP! IT'S AN INTER-GALACTIC FREIGHTER! MAYBE THEY NEED HELP!

HEEDLESS OF DANGER TO HIMSELF, DIXON BLASTS OFF SWIFTLY IN HIS SPACE-ROADSTER...
CAN'T CONTACT THEM BY RADIO! TOO MUCH ELECTRICAL INTERFERENCE GENERATED BY THE WHIRLPOOL!


INTO THE WHIRLPOOL HE DARTS--AND WHEN HIS ROADSTER IS PARALLEL TO THE FREIGHTER, HE EMERGES IN A SPACE-SUIT...
THEY'VE OPENED THE SIDE HATCH FOR ME! HERE GOES--

INSIDE THE FREIGHTER...

WHAT HAPPENED TO CAPTAIN SHEIL?

HE WAS KNOCKED AGAINST THE CONTROLS BY THE SUCTION.' WE'RE TRYING TO GET OUT OF THE WHIRLPOOL, BUT NOTHING SEEMS TO WORK.'

I KNOW HOW WE CAN GET OUT IF YOU'LL OBEY ORDERS...

DIXON--YOU NEVER GAVE A RIGHT ORDER IN YOUR LIFE.'

BAD AS THINGS ARE NOW, YOUR ORDERS WOULD ONLY MAKE THINGS WORSE.'

FOR AN INSTANT, DIXON WITHDRAWS, BUT HIS DETERMINATION GIVES HIM COURAGE...

LOOK HERE, YOU.' FOR ONCE YOU'LL LISTEN.' YOU'LL DIE--TRAPPED IN HERE--UNLESS YOU DO AS I SAY.'

S-SURE.' WHAT DO YOU WANT US TO DO?

AS THE DOMINEERING DIXON SNAPS HIS COMMANDS, THEY ARE SWIFTLY AND EFFICIENTLY CARRIED OUT--UNTIL FINALLY...

DIXON.' *WE'RE OUT OF THE WHIRLPOOL.'*

OF COURSE.' YOU COULDN'T FIGHT THROUGH THIS CURRENT.' YOU HAD TO SPIN FASTER THAN THE WHIRLPOOL'S SPEED SO CENTRIFUGAL FORCE WOULD *HURL* THE SHIP OUT.'

AS THE FREIGHTER CONTINUES TO ITS SPACEPORT OF CALL DIXON SUDDENLY REALIZES THE TRUTH ABOUT HIMSELF...

I ALWAYS THOUGHT OF MYSELF AS A FAILURE, SO I *WAS* A FAILURE.' TO BE A LEADER, TO HAVE CONFIDENCE, YOU MUST BELIEVE IN YOURSELF.' I'LL NEVER FAIL AGAIN.'

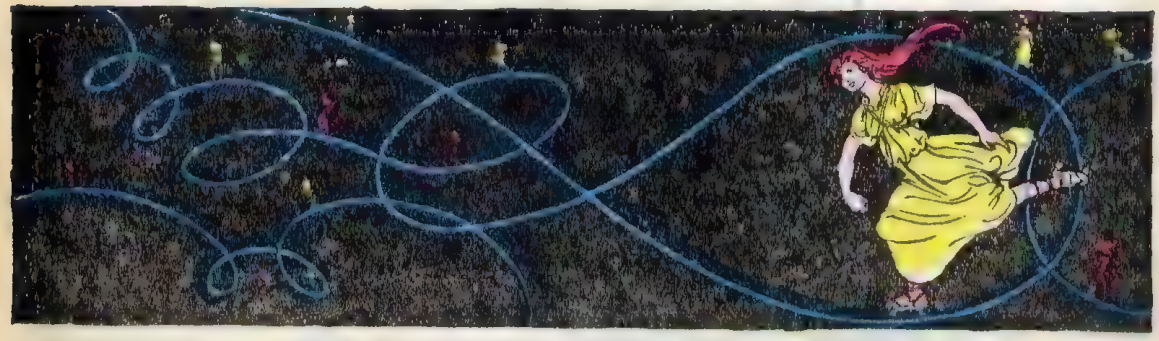
AND HE NEVER DID.' EVEN MR. WEDGE HIMSELF CAN TESTIFY TO THE ABILITY OF HIS NEW FOREMAN...

...AND NOW, GENTLEMEN, I HAVE A NEW PLAN FOR OUR INCOMING FREIGHT DEPARTMENT...

WHAT CONFIDENCE.' WHAT POISE.' DIXON'S VACATION CERTAINLY MADE A NEW MAN OF HIM.'

THE END

WONDERS of SPACE



STAR-JOURNEYS THROUGH SPACE!

THE human eye isn't quite the reliable an instrument of sight most of us think it is. We are all familiar with the deception practiced on our vision by *desert mirages*, where we apparently see objects that don't even exist! The magician's hand is quicker than the eye, otherwise we wouldn't be deluded into believing objects could disappear before our eyes. Should a meteor plummet down from the skies some distance away from us our eyes would be unable to tell us how fast or how far away it was falling. If we watch a toy ballon aimlessly drifting about in the atmosphere, it is almost impossible to tell quickly whether it is soaring upward or falling back toward earth; whether it is coming toward us, or floating away in the opposite direction; whether it is moving in a straight line, a curve, or a spiral.

The weakness of the human eye to detect motion accurately in the toy balloon becomes even more glaring when it is applied to viewing distant *stars;* tiny pinpoints of light billions and trillions of miles away, moving at miles-a-second speeds! No wonder then that our knowledge of the motions of stars is still in the infancy stage.

Telescopic photographs register the changing positions of stars, and this directional shift is called *proper motion;* the spectrogram reveals whether a star is moving in our direction or away from us, and this is termed *radial motion.* By combining the *proper* and *radial motions* of a star we are able to know its *real motion.* Yet the problem of determining whether a star's path through space is straight or curved, a circle or a spiral, is still beyond present-day solution. To make the problem more complex, we have to deal with billions and trillions of stars, most of them so far away that we will never know everything about every star. As a final obstacle to our quest is the fact that while the stars are moving about, so are we on earth—which apparently makes an "impossible" problem *doubly* "impossible" to solve!

No matter how carefully we watch with our naked eye we can never detect the slightest motion of the stars *relative to one another.* The stars seem as truly fixed as if they were light bulbs set in the vault of the sky. Yet though we often speak about "fixed stars" (as contrasted with planets which we can see move night by night), it is not strictly correct to do so.

Stars have motions which cause them to change positions relative to one another over long periods of time, a discovery first made by Edmund Halley (he of the famous comet that bears his name) more than 200 years ago. By comparing the positions of stars in catalogues made 2000 years earlier with those in his day, Halley found that Sirius, Aldebaran, and Arcturus had apparently moved by amounts too large to be due to errors of observation. If this were true, it was an im-

portant discovery indeed—the first indication of motion in the hitherto "fixed" stars. Yet Halley brought the matter to the attention of astronomers almost apologetically as being "not unworthy of the Royal Society's attention."

Today we know that nothing in the universe is stable. All the stars are moving, but their change in position only becomes perceptible to the naked eye after many centuries. At present we know the motions of stars only in our immediate neighborhood. We have determined that such familiar stars as Sirius, Vega, and Arcturus are approaching us, and that Rigel, Betelgeuse, and Aldebaran, are receding. Whether these stars are moving toward or away from us in straight lines, or as part of circular orbits, cannot be answered at this time.

To give some idea of the amounts of the stars' changes in position in the heavens it will be best if we take the one which has the greatest change or *proper motion,* as we defined it earlier. The swiftest movement of a star was discovered by Edward E. Barnard, who about 50 years ago detected a small star, 6 light years away—that has since become famous as "Barnard's Runner." In the short space of 180 years, it changes its position equal to the width of the moon.

It might be thought that a movement as great as the moon's diameter would be easily obvious to the naked eye even in the course of a few years, but this is not so. The width of the moon is rather deceptive, as a simple experiment will show: Measure a distance of 9 feet and look at a dime set at this point. Its width corresponds to the apparent distance that "Barnard's Runner" will move in 180 years; and if you think you could detect a space of 1/20th of the diameter of the dime at this distance—which corresponds to the proper motion of the star in about one-eighth of your lifetime—your vision is extraordinarily acute and accurate.

Contrast "Barnard's Runner" with the star nearest to us—Alpha Centauri, 4.3 light years away. To move the same distance—the width of the moon—would take Alpha Centauri 500 years; Arcturus would make it in 800 years, while 1550 years would be required for Procyon to move a like distance.

Since all stars are moving in different directions at different speeds, the constellations that we are familiar with today would change their appearances somewhat over the course of thousands of centuries. As one writer put it, "the stock Great Bear will have turned into a lanky giraffe. Orion will have lost his belt and Sagittarius will have emptied his quiver."

Groups of stars like the Pleiades or the Hyades are of special significance because of the theory that they all originated at the same time from the same source. The way the stars are grouped in space, the speed and direction of their motions, are all indices of the age of the individual groups and original pattern of their formation. According to present estimates no constellation is older than 3 billion to 5 billion years—the same age as our universe. And curiously enough there seems to be a regular pattern about the distribution of stars.

In the *inner spirals* of galactic universes we find cool-red giant stars, dim dwarf stars, variable stars, and global clusters of stars. In the *outer spirals* we discover hot-blue giant stars, white dwarf stars, and stars of our own sun-type. Predominant in the *center spiral* are *Cepheid-type* stars of short periods, while Cepheids with long periods lurk in the *outskirts* of the galactic spirals.

No night passes without some additional bit of information being added to our knowledge of star motions. Recently the Lick Observatory in California completed a photographic survey of the northern sky. More than 100 large photographs were taken, each one being exposed for two hours. Fifty years from now, an identical photographic survey will be taken. Then by comparing the two sets of photographs, evidence of the motion of so many stars will be obtained that perhaps there will emerge a "formula" to help us solve the mystery motions of stars through space.

To the Boys and Girls of America--

THIS FAMOUS SYMBOL IS YOUR

SUPERMAN • DC • NATIONAL COMICS

GUARANTEE

OF THE *BEST* IN COMICS READING

For Example

MAY GREATEST ADVENTURE
MAY-JUNE NO 3
APPROVED BY THE COMICS CODE AUTHORITY
HE'S DOOMED! HE'S SLIPPING ON THAT ICY SECTION OF THE WIRE—AND HE HAS ONLY ONE ARM FREE TO BALANCE HIMSELF!
FEATURING
"Dawn Knight of the Inventors"
STRANGE ADVENTURES
MAY NO 56
APPROVED BY THE COMICS CODE AUTHORITY
Featuring "THE FISH-MEN of EARTH!"
WE'RE LIKE FISH IN AN OCEAN—AN OCEAN OF AIR!
WHEE! THIS IS FUN!
ONE WAY
A CAD: "I FOUND CAPT. KIDD'S TREASURE!" "I WAS BURIED ALIVE FOR 30 DAYS!"

ALL SUPERMAN-DC COMICS HAVE BEEN APPROVED BY THE CODE AUTHORITY!

MYSTERY of the COUNTERFEIT SPACE-CABBY!

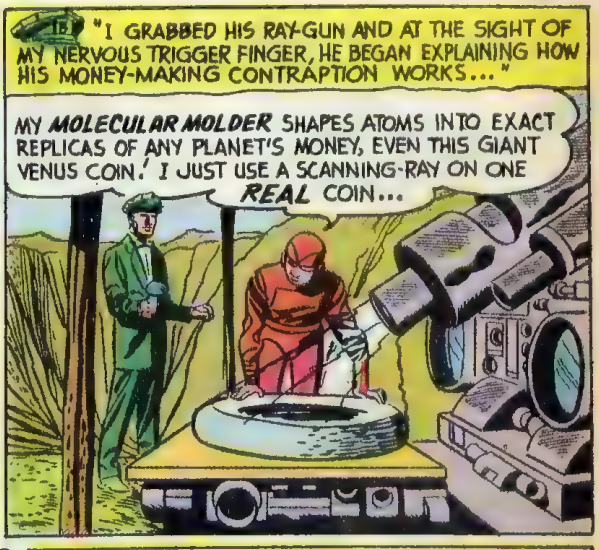
REMEMBER ME, THE SPACE-CABBY? I'VE GOT ANOTHER STRANGE STORY TO TELL YOU ABOUT THE TIME I GOT TANGLED UP WITH A COUNTERFEITER WHO NOT ONLY MADE PHONY DUPLICATES OF COINS--BUT PEOPLE TOO! THAT'S HOW THAT CABBY-IMPERSONATOR GOT HERE!
MY DOUBLE HAS HIS STORY MIXED UP! YOU SEE, I'M THE REAL CABBY AND HE IS THE COUNTERFEIT! THE ONLY TROUBLE IS, NEITHER OF US CAN PROVE WHO'S WHO!
TAXI
TAXI
TAXI
7Y33

"I STORM INTO IPPY* HEADQUARTERS ONE DAY, FISSIONED UP HOTTER THAN A NOVA..."
I WAS ROBBED OUT OF MY SPACE-CAB FARE BY THIS COUNTERFEIT MARTIAN PAPER MONEY! WHAT ARE YOU GOING TO DO ABOUT IT?
DON'T WORRY! WE'VE GOT A SPACE-DRAGNET OUT FOR THAT COUNTERFEITER!
TAXI
*EDITOR'S NOTE: IPPY--SLANG WORD FOR INTERPLANETARY POLICE, FROM THE INITIALS I.P.

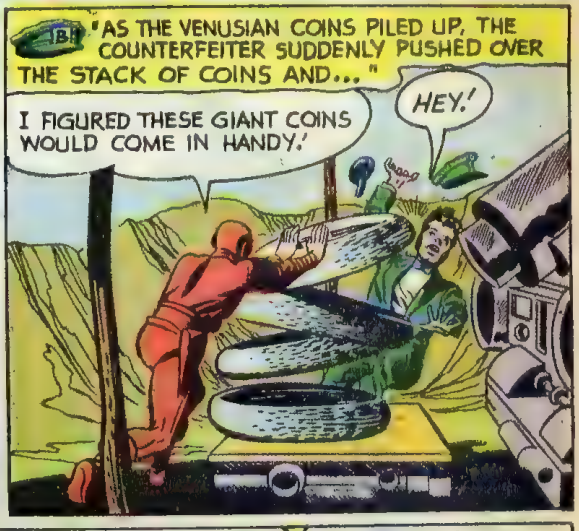
"BUT I FISSION-UP EVEN MORE WHEN I RETURN TO MY SPACE-HACK PARKED OUTSIDE AND FIND..."
TAXI? ANYWHERE IN THE SOLAR SYSTEM! TAXI?
HEY, WHAT'S THE BIG IDEA? ARE YOU TRYING TO STEAL MY CAB? GET OUT!

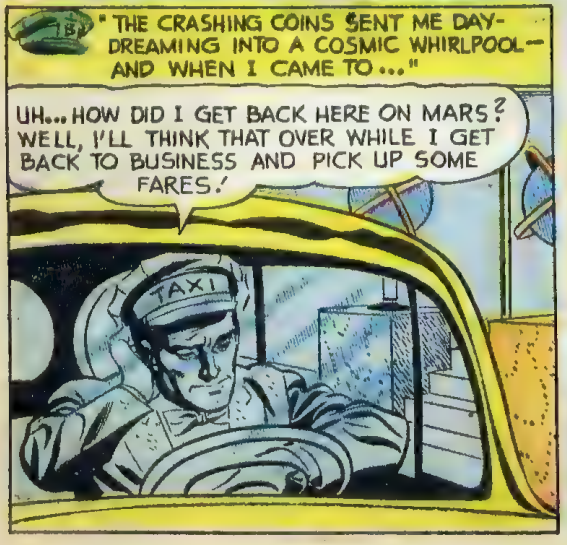
"I'M READY TO SEND HIM FLYING CLEAR THROUGH THE RINGS OF SATURN, WHEN..."
SIZZLING COMETS! YOUR FACE--BODY--CLOTHES--ALL LIKE MINE! YOU'RE MY DOUBLE!
HUH? WHY, YOU'RE MY EXACT TWIN!
TAXI
"I STARE AT HIM--HE STARES AT ME--BOTH OF US DIZZIER THAN AFTER A ROCKET-GO-ROUND RIDE..."
IT'S LIKE LOOKING IN A MIRROR! BUT JUST THE SAME, THE CAB IS MINE!
IT'S LIKE LISTENING TO MY OWN ECHO! THERE CAN'T BE TWO SPACE-CABBIES LIKE ME, SO YOU'RE THE PHONY!
TAX
TAXI
HOLD ON! BEFORE THIS GETS TOO CONFUSING, I'LL BE CABBY A AND YOU'LL BE CABBY B! NOW TRY AND PROVE YOU OWN "MY" CAB!
B
TAXI
I JUST FIGURED OUT HOW THIS MIX-UP HAPPENED! THIS MORNING, BEFORE THERE WERE TWO OF US, I PICKED UP THAT COUNTERFEITER ON PHOBOS, ONE OF THE MOONS OF MARS...
B
..."OF COURSE, I DIDN'T KNOW AT THE TIME HE WAS A COUNTERFEITER..."
JET IT UP TO THE MARS SPACEPORT, CABBY, WHERE MY PRIVATE SPACE-CAR IS PARKED!
YES, SIR! I'LL HAVE YOU THERE BEFORE YOU CAN SAY NEBULA ANDROMEDA!
TAXI
"WITH A DOZEN KINDS OF INTERPLANETARY MONEY IN CIRCULATION, I ALWAYS GIVE MY FARE A GOOD GOING OVER WHEN I'M PAID, AND..."
KEEP THE CHANGE, CABBY!
THANKS--FOR NOTHING! THESE MARTIAN BILLS ALL HAVE IDENTICAL SERIAL NUMBERS! THEY'RE COUNTERFEIT!
"I WAS SIZZLING LIKE A SOLAR PROMINENCE AS I CHASED HIM IN HIS SPACE-CAR..."
HE MUST HAVE A HIDEOUT IN THE ASTEROIDS! I'LL FOLLOW HIM THERE!
2

B "WHEN I CAUGHT UP TO HIM IN HIS COUNTERFEITING DEN..."
HERE'S A RECEIPT FOR THAT COUNTERFEIT MONEY YOU GAVE ME.'


B "I GRABBED HIS RAY-GUN AND AT THE SIGHT OF MY NERVOUS TRIGGER FINGER, HE BEGAN EXPLAINING HOW HIS MONEY-MAKING CONTRAPTION WORKS..."
MY MOLECULAR MOLDER SHAPES ATOMS INTO EXACT REPLICAS OF ANY PLANET'S MONEY, EVEN THIS GIANT VENUS COIN.' I JUST USE A SCANNING-RAY ON ONE REAL COIN...

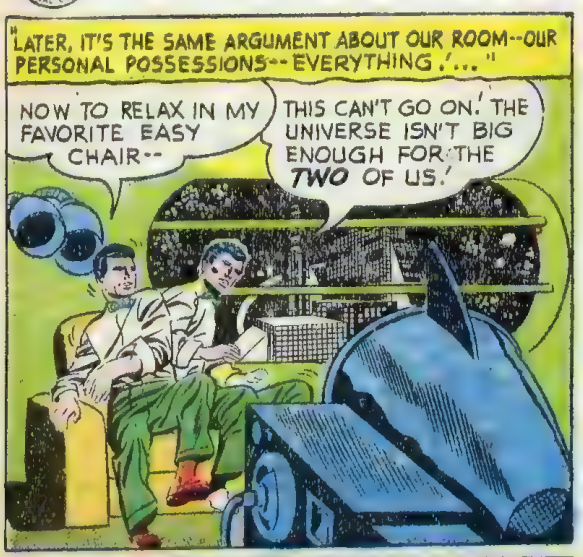
...AND OUT COME PERFECT DUPLICATES--SO THAT EVEN EXPERTS ARE FOOLED.'
--EXCEPT IN THE CASE OF PAPER MONEY.' THEY ALL HAVE IDENTICAL SERIAL NUMBERS.'

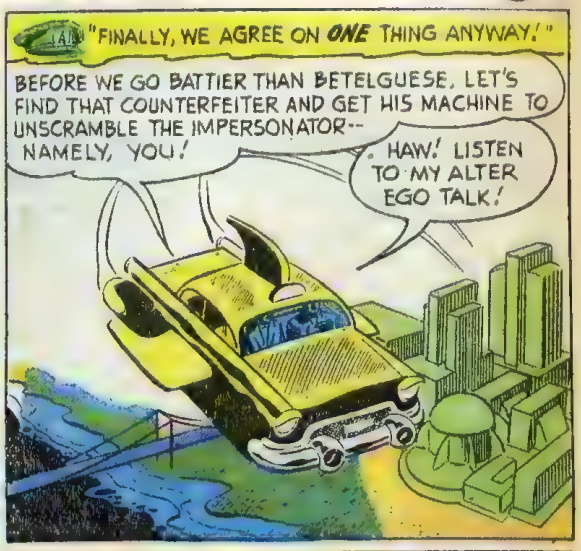

B "AS THE VENUSIAN COINS PILED UP, THE COUNTERFEITER SUDDENLY PUSHED OVER THE STACK OF COINS AND..."
I FIGURED THESE GIANT COINS WOULD COME IN HANDY.'
HEY.'

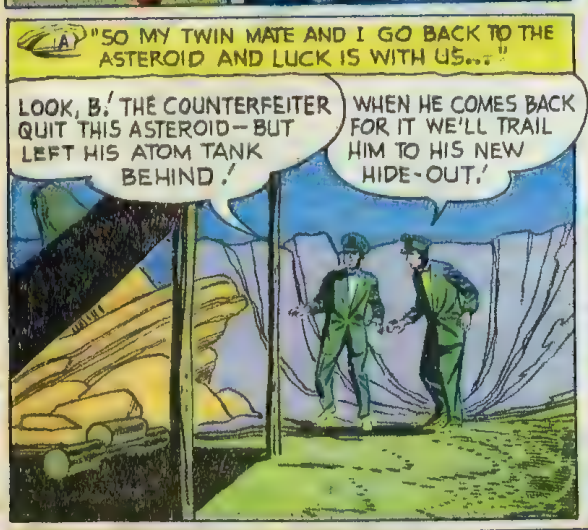

B "THE CRASHING COINS SENT ME DAYDREAMING INTO A COSMIC WHIRLPOOL--AND WHEN I CAME TO..."
UH... HOW DID I GET BACK HERE ON MARS? WELL, I'LL THINK THAT OVER WHILE I GET BACK TO BUSINESS AND PICK UP SOME FARES.'
TAXI

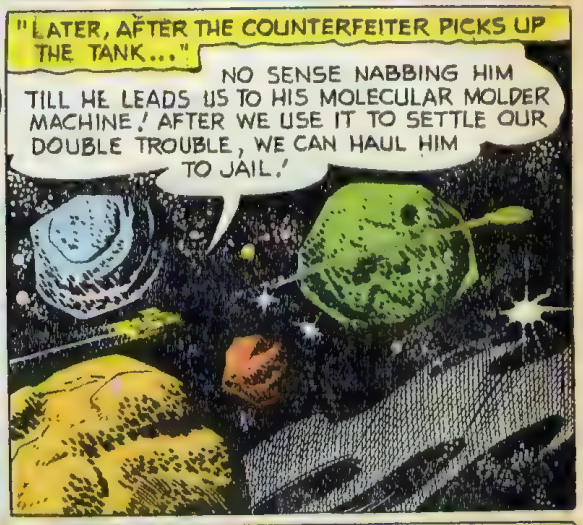
SINCE I DIDN'T REMEMBER DRIVING HERE FROM THE COUNTERFEITER'S ASTEROID, IT MEANS YOU DROVE THE CAB BACK, CABBY A.'
I GUESS SO.' AND SOMETHING ELSE NOW BECOMES CLEAR! THE COUNTERFEITER MADE A DUPLICATE OF THE REAL ME--JUST LIKE COUNTERFEIT MONEY.'
A
3

UNDER THE SCANNING RAY WE CAME OUT TWINS! THEN THE CROOK PUT UNCONSCIOUS YOU IN THE BACK SEAT, LEAVING ME TO DRIVE BACK TO MARS! LOOK, HE LEFT US A NOTE!
ONE OF YOU IS A COUNTERFEIT CABBY--THE OTHER REAL! BUT WHO'S WHO? ONLY MY MOLECULAR MOLDER CAN UNSCRAMBLE THE COUNTERFEIT CABBY'S ATOMS AGAIN! MEANWHILE YOU'RE STUCK WITH EACH OTHER FOR LIFE!
HA! HA!
I'M NOT GOING TO BE STUCK WITH PHONY YOU! SO GET GOING!
I'LL GET GOING ALL RIGHT-- IN MY CAB! I'M THE REAL...
B
"JUST THEN, ALONG COMES A FARE..."
TAXI!
TAXI? WHICH ONE OF YOU IS THE CABBY?
ME, SIR--
OOF!
AT YOUR SERVICE, SIR...
UNGH!
I'M WARNING YOU, B! KEEP YOUR SHAM HANDS OFF MY TAXI!
GO JUMP OFF A METEOR, A! I'M THE ONE AND ONLY ORIGINAL CABBY!
"WHILE I'M WASTING TIME ARGUING WITH MY IMPOSTOR..."
SEE WHAT YOU DID? HE TOOK ANOTHER CAB!
I LOST THE FARE AND IT'S YOUR FAULT!
ZOOOM!
4


"LATER, IT'S THE SAME ARGUMENT ABOUT OUR ROOM--OUR PERSONAL POSSESSIONS--EVERYTHING!..."
NOW TO RELAX IN MY FAVORITE EASY CHAIR--
THIS CAN'T GO ON! THE UNIVERSE ISN'T BIG ENOUGH FOR THE TWO OF US!


"FINALLY, WE AGREE ON ONE THING ANYWAY!"
BEFORE WE GO BATTIER THAN BETELGUESE, LET'S FIND THAT COUNTERFEITER AND GET HIS MACHINE TO UNSCRAMBLE THE IMPERSONATOR--NAMELY, YOU!
HAW! LISTEN TO MY ALTER EGO TALK!


"SO MY TWIN MATE AND I GO BACK TO THE ASTEROID AND LUCK IS WITH US..."
LOOK, B! THE COUNTERFEITER QUIT THIS ASTEROID--BUT LEFT HIS ATOM TANK BEHIND!
WHEN HE COMES BACK FOR IT WE'LL TRAIL HIM TO HIS NEW HIDE-OUT!


"LATER, AFTER THE COUNTERFEITER PICKS UP THE TANK..."
NO SENSE NABBING HIM TILL HE LEADS US TO HIS MOLECULAR MOLDER MACHINE! AFTER WE USE IT TO SETTLE OUR DOUBLE TROUBLE, WE CAN HAUL HIM TO JAIL!

"WHEN HE LANDS ON THE ASTEROID WE RUSH HIM..."
MY RAY GUN WILL FINISH YOU...
I CAN'T LET HIM KILL YOU, A--EVEN IF YOU ARE JUST AN ECHO OF MYSELF!

"THEN WE BOTH JOIN FORCES AGAINST OUR COMMON ENEMY..."
YOU CAN'T SOCK MY FACE AND GET AWAY WITH IT! I'LL GET HIM, B!

"WE TIE UP THE CROOK AND THEN GET READY FOR THE CRUCIAL MOMENT..."
THE CONTROLS ARE SET TO GET RID OF YOU, MY ARTIFICIAL COUNTER-PART.'
ONCE WE BOTH STAND UNDER THE UNSCRAMBLER RAY, I'LL PULL THE LEVER AND AWAY YOU'LL GO.'
UNSCRAMBLING RAY FOR FAULTY COUNTERFEITS. (HARMLESS TO ORIGINAL ITEM)
BEFORE YOU GET UNSCRAMBLED, B, I--ER--WANT TO TELL YOU, YOU'RE NOT A BAD GUY, REALLY.'
SHAKE, A! IT WAS NICE KNOWING YOU, IMITATION OR NOT.'
"AT THIS FINAL MOMENT I'M SHAKING...WONDERING IF I'M THE RIGHT OR WRONG CABBY.' THEN A THOUGHT LURKING IN THE BACK OF MY MIND ALL THE TIME STRIKES MY BRAIN..."
IT WAS AS PLAIN AS THE NOSE ON MY FACE--BOTH OF 'EM.' NOW I KNOW YOU'LL VANISH, A... BECAUSE THERE'S ONE BIG DIFFERENCE BETWEEN US.'
WH--WHAT DO YOU MEAN?
IT CLICKED IN MY MIND WHEN YOU PULLED THE LEVER WITH YOUR LEFT HAND.' GOOD-BYE, A! SORRY.'
I--I'M VANISHING-- OHHHHH...
A IS GONE.' I WON'T NEED THIS "B" LABEL ANYMORE.' I SHOULD HAVE REALIZED ALL ALONG THAT MY COUNTERFEIT WAS A MIRROR IMAGE -- THE REVERSE OF ME.'
B
TAXI
I'M STRICTLY RIGHT-HANDED--BUT EVERY ACTION THAT A DID, WAS WITH HIS LEFT HAND.' GUESS I MIGHT AS WELL WIND UP THIS CASE BY TAKING THE COUNTERFEITER TO JAIL.'
"I'M HAPPY TO BE ALONE NOW, AT MY SPACE HACKIE JOB, EXCEPT AT TIMES..."
I HAVE NOBODY TO TALK TO.' I SORT OF MISS MY DOUBLE NOW! EVEN AN ARGUMENT WOULD BE BETTER THAN THIS.'
THE END
6

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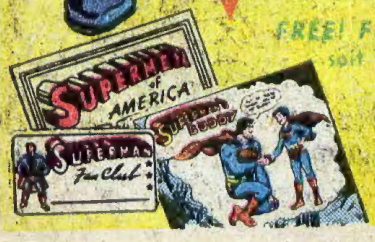

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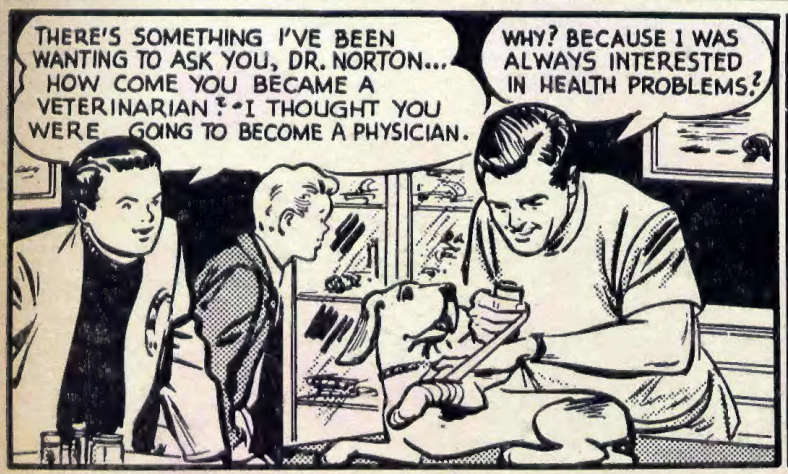
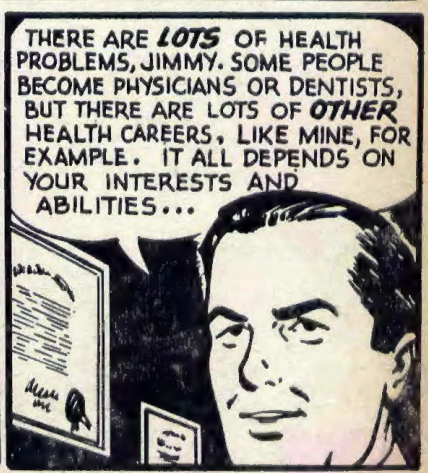
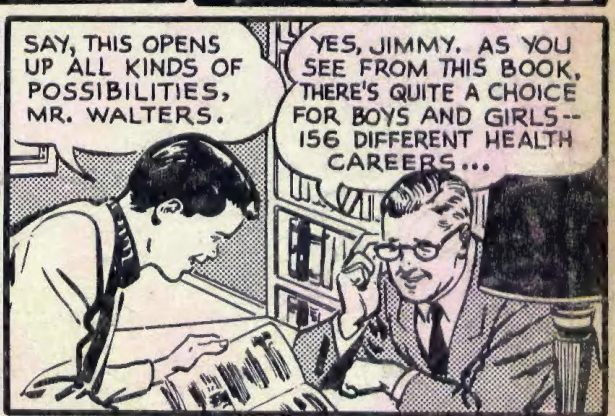
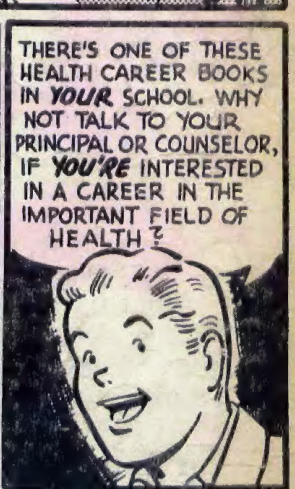
BUZZY says: "THERE MAY BE A CAREER IN HEALTH for YOU!"


THERE'S SOMETHING I'VE BEEN WANTING TO ASK YOU, DR. NORTON... HOW COME YOU BECAME A VETERINARIAN? - I THOUGHT YOU WERE GOING TO BECOME A PHYSICIAN.
WHY? BECAUSE I WAS ALWAYS INTERESTED IN HEALTH PROBLEMS.


THERE ARE LOTS OF HEALTH PROBLEMS, JIMMY. SOME PEOPLE BECOME PHYSICIANS OR DENTISTS, BUT THERE ARE LOTS OF OTHER HEALTH CAREERS, LIKE MINE, FOR EXAMPLE. IT ALL DEPENDS ON YOUR INTERESTS AND ABILITIES...


SAY, THIS OPENS UP ALL KINDS OF POSSIBILITIES, MR. WALTERS.
YES, JIMMY. AS YOU SEE FROM THIS BOOK, THERE'S QUITE A CHOICE FOR BOYS AND GIRLS-- 156 DIFFERENT HEALTH CAREERS...


THERE'S ONE OF THESE HEALTH CAREER BOOKS IN YOUR SCHOOL. WHY NOT TALK TO YOUR PRINCIPAL OR COUNSELOR, IF YOU'RE INTERESTED IN A CAREER IN THE IMPORTANT FIELD OF HEALTH?

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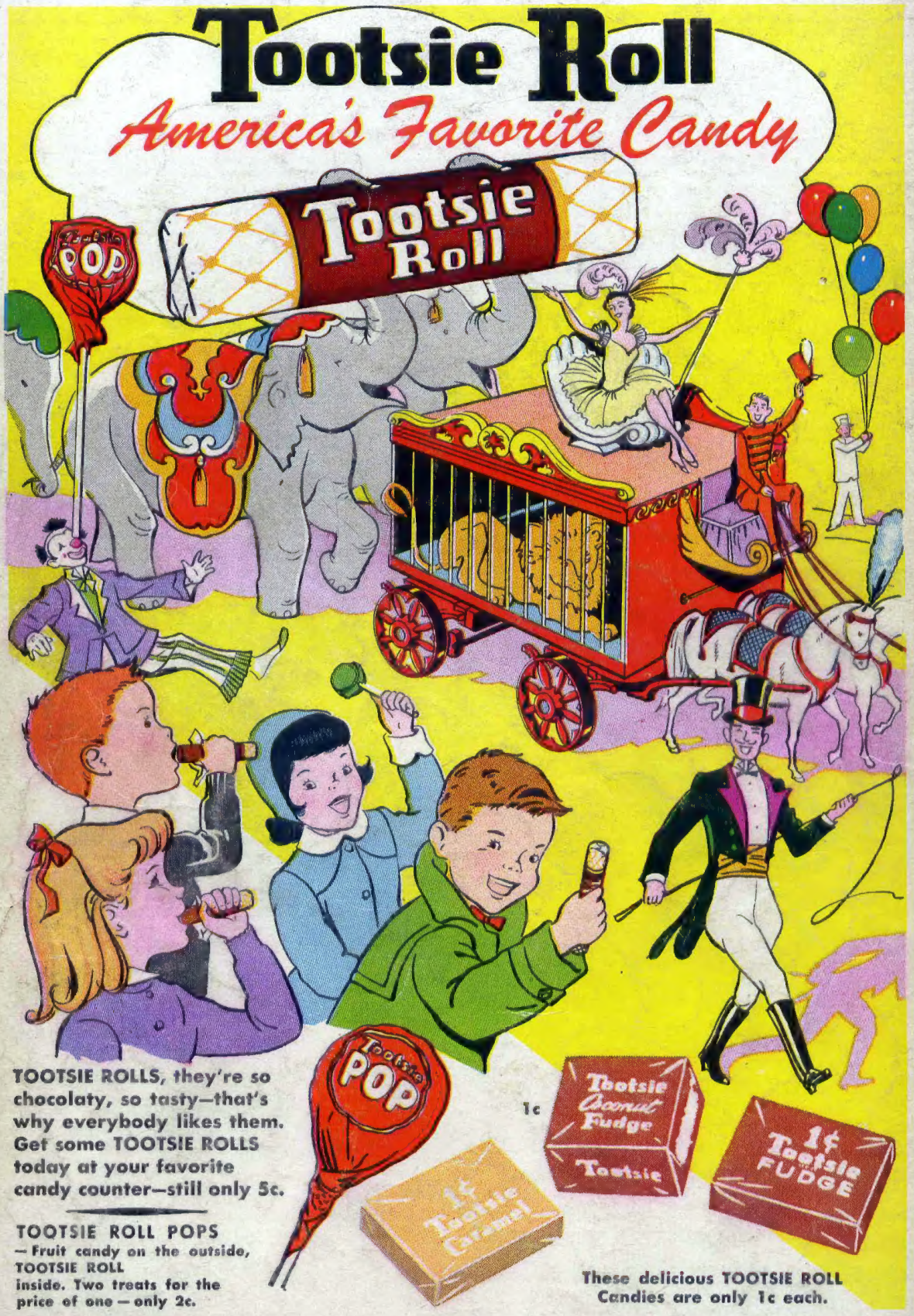
Tootsie Roll

America's Favorite Candy



TOOTSIE ROLLS, they're so chocolaty, so tasty—that's why everybody likes them. Get some TOOTSIE ROLLS today at your favorite candy counter—still only 5c.

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